

The Economic Impact of Periodontal disease on Global Health and its Strategies

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DESCRIPTION

Periodontal disease, a chronic inflammatory condition affecting the tissues surrounding and supporting the teeth, poses significant economic burdens globally. While often overlooked in discussions of healthcare costs, the consequences of periodontal disease extend beyond dental health, impacting overall health outcomes and financial well-being. Understanding the economic implications of periodontal disease is crucial for policymakers, healthcare providers, and individuals alike. Periodontal disease encompasses a range of conditions, from mild gingivitis to severe periodontitis, characterized by inflammation and infection of the gums and supporting structures of the teeth. While poor oral hygiene is a primary contributing factor, genetic predisposition, smoking, diabetes, and certain medications also play significant roles in its development. Left untreated, periodontal disease can lead to tooth loss and systemic health issues, including cardiovascular disease and diabetes complication.

The costs of periodontal disease

Direct healthcare costs: Treatment expenses for periodontal disease include professional dental care, medications, and surgical interventions. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the average cost of treating periodontitis can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars per patient annually. These costs encompass routine dental visits, deep cleanings, and, in severe cases, periodontal surgeries.

Indirect costs: Beyond direct healthcare expenditures, periodontal disease imposes substantial indirect costs. These include productivity losses due to absenteeism and decreased work performance. Research suggests that individuals with severe periodontal disease are more likely to take sick leave and experience impaired productivity at work, leading to economic losses for both employers and employees.

Impact on quality of life: Periodontal disease can significantly diminish an individual's quality of life, affecting their ability to eat, speak, and socialize comfortably. The discomfort and

embarrassment associated with dental issues may lead to decreased self-esteem and psychological distress. These intangible costs are difficult to quantify but contribute to the overall economic burden of the disease.

Consequences of untreated periodontal disease

Systemic health complications: Mounting evidence links periodontal disease to various systemic health conditions, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. The inflammatory nature of periodontitis can exacerbate existing health conditions and increase the risk of developing new ones, thereby escalating healthcare costs associated with managing comorbidities.

Long-term oral health complications: Left untreated, periodontal disease can lead to tooth loss, necessitating costly restorative procedures such as dental implants or bridges. Moreover, the progression of periodontitis may require more extensive and invasive treatments over time, further amplifying economic burdens on individuals and healthcare systems.

Addressing the economic burden

Preventive measures: Investing in preventive dental care is key to mitigating the economic burden of periodontal disease. Encouraging regular dental check-ups, promoting oral hygiene practices, and implementing community-based interventions can help prevent the onset and progression of periodontitis, thereby reducing associated healthcare costs.

Integrated healthcare approaches: Recognizing the bidirectional relationship between periodontal health and systemic health is essential. Integrating oral health screenings and interventions into primary care settings can facilitate early detection and management of periodontal disease, ultimately reducing healthcare expenditures related to its systemic complications.

Health education and awareness: Enhancing public awareness of the importance of oral health and its implications for overall well-being is crucial. Educational campaigns targeting individuals, communities, and healthcare professionals can promote preventive

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behaviors, encourage early intervention, and foster a culture of oral health consciousness, thereby alleviating the economic burden of periodontal disease.

The economic burden of periodontal disease encompasses direct healthcare costs, indirect costs, and intangible impacts on quality of life. Addressing this burden requires a multifaceted

approach, including preventive measures, integrated healthcare strategies, and health education initiatives. By prioritizing oral health promotion and early intervention, stakeholders can mitigate the economic consequences of periodontal disease while improving overall health outcomes and well-being for individuals and communities alike.